breadwinner occurring whilst he or she is in the age group of 18 to 64 years. Annapurna Scheme aims at providing food security to meet the requirement of those senior citizens who, though eligible, have remained uncovered under the NOAPS. Under this Scheme 10 Kgs of food grains per month are provided free of cost to the beneficiary.

Finance Minister in budget speech for the year 2006-07 has announced an increase in pension under NOAPS from Rs. 75V- per month per beneficiary to Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary.

(c) As per guidelines of the Scheme, the States are required to furnish quarterly physical and financial progress report in the given format by the 15th of month of the following quarter. Non reporting of the physical and financial progress reports is constructed as lack of progress and therefore, may result in non-release of Additional Centra! Assistance (ACA) for the last quarter of the financial year. At least 50% of the ACA funds released must be utilized by the States and UTs by 31st December of the financial year so that the ACA for the remaining three months of that financial year, i.e. January, February and March could be released. Before release of funds for the last quarter, the State/UTs shall also furnish Utilization Certificate for the funds released during the previous financial year to the Ministry of Rural Development.

To review the programme and to implement the Programme in more effective manner, meetings of Nodal Secretaries of States dealing with NSAP and Annapurna are organfced by the Ministry of Rural Development from time to time. Also review of NOAPS, NFBS and Annapurna has been made part of the agenda of District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees.

**Schemes under NSAP**

2553. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the schemes evolved under the National Social Assistance Programme announced.in Budget 2006-07;

(b) the funds provided for each of the Schemes and how far they have been implemented in various States; and

(c) what is the estimated number of beneficiaries under each scheme, all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU). (a) The Ministry of Rural Development had been administering the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) consisting of National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) and the National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) as Centrally Sponsored Scheme until the programme was transferred to the State Plan along with the Annapurna Scheme *w.e.f.* 2002-03. Under NOAPs, Central assistance of Rs. 200. per month has to be provided per beneficiary for destitutes above 65 years. Under NFBS, Rs. 10000/- has to be given to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) bereaved household on the death of the primary breadwinner. The death of such a primary breadwinner occurring whilst he or she is in the age group of 18 to 64 years. Annapurna Scheme aims at providing food security to meet the requirement of those senior citizens who, though eligible, have remained uncovered under the NOAPS. Under this Scheme 10 kgs of food grains per month are provided free of cost to the beneficiary.

Finance Minister in his budget speech for the year 2006-07 has announced an increase in pension under National Old Age Pension (NOAPS) from Rs. 75/- per month per beneficiary to Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary.

(b) and (c) After transfer of the scheme to the State Plan since 2002-03, the funds are being allocated to the States/UTs by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Rural Development and released by Ministry of Finance on the recommendation of the Ministry of Rural Development as Additional Central Assistance (ACA). A combined allocation is made for all the three schemes *viz.* National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Annapurna. The ACA provided to the States/UTs under NSAP and Annapurna are to be utilized by the States/UTs as Welfare Schemes of NOAPS, NFBS or free foodgrains to the aged by taking one or two or all of the three schemes or in any other combination in accordance with their own priorities and needs. The funds provided for the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 and the number of beneficiaries reported by the States is enclosed at statement-l and Statement-ll.

***Statement-I***

*Number of Beneficiaries reported by the States/UTs during 2005-06*

| SI. No. | States/UTs | No.of Beneficiaries reported | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | NOARS | NFBS | Annapuma |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 466000 | 16492 | 93200 |
| 2 | Bihar | 820193 | 27920 | 148483 |
| 3 | Chhattisgarh | 183893 | 11472 | 25337 |
| 4 | Goa | 3451 | 282 | NR |
| 5 | Gujarat | 63550 | 7718 | 20358 |
| 6 | Haryana | 95800 | 4500 | NR |
| 7 | Himachal Pradesh | 22700 | 3040 | 5242 |
| 8 | Jammu & Kashmir | 64708 | 3110 | NR |
| 9 | Jharkhand | 166236 | 3744 | 54939 |
| 10 | Karnataka | 488130 | NR | NR |
| 11 | Kerala | 141768 | 11744 | 44980 |
| 12 | Madhya Pradesh | 683680 | 30551 | NR |
| 13 | Maharashtra | 659429 | 18302 | 120000 |
| 14 | Orissa | 493381 | 4635 | NR |
| 15 | Punjab | 45853 | 1290 | NR |
| 16 | Rajasthan | 144555 | 10426 | 119162 |
| 17 | Tamil Nadu | 481028 | 48977 | 71974 |
| 18 | Uttar Pradesh | 1461481 | 30500 | NR |
| 19 | Uttarakhand | 64246 | 3000 | NR |
| 20 | West Bengal | 451579 | 13296 | 67611 |
| SUB TOTAL | | 7001661 | 250999 | 771286 |
| *North Eastern States* | | | | |
| 21 | Arunachal Pradesh | 12923 | 260 | NR |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 22 Assam | 614513 | 15539 | 26640 |
| 23 Manipur | 43619 | 2024 | 22695 |
| 24 Meghalaya | 33776 | 618 | 9263 |
| 25 Mizoram | 10525 | 400 | 2583 |
| 26 Nagaland | 30051 | 680 | NR |
| 27 Sikkim | 14869 | 157 | 2500 |
| 28 Tripura | 83972 | 1460 | 17351 |
| SUB-TOTAL | 844248 | 21138 | 81032 |
| *UTs* | | | |
| 29 A&N Islands | 665 | NR | NR |
| 30 Chandigarh | 4497 | 157 | NR |
| 31 D&N Haveli | 1086 | 134 | NR |
| 32 Daman & Diu | 372 | NR | NR |
| 33 NCT Delhi | 150000 | 400 | NR |
| 34 Lakshadweep | 32 | NR | NR |
| 35 Pondicherry | NR | NR | NR |
| SUB TOTAL | 156652 | 691 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | 8002561 | 272828 | 852318 |

NR: Not Reported

***Statement-II***

*Funds Allocated and Released to the States/UTs during 2005-06 and 2006-07*

(Rs. in Lakh)

| | | Year: 2005-06 | | Year: 2006-07 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SI. No. | States/UTs | Combined Allocation For 3 schemes | Total Release | Combined Allocation for 3 schemes | Total Release |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 6746.70 | 6746.70 | 14882.08 | 11161.55 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Bihar | 13213.06 | 13213.06 | 36002.21 | 27001.65 |
| 3 | Chhattisgarh | 2890.35 | 2880.35 | 7321.38 | 5491.05 |
| 4 | Goa | 66.95 | 66.95 | 66.95 | 50.22 |
| 5 | Gujarat | 3582.50 | 3582.50 | 5601.09 | 4200.82 |
| 6 | Haryana | 1311.73 | 1311.73 | 3296.24 | 2472.19 |
| 7 | Himachal Pradesh | 547.17 | 547.17 | 1389.07 | 1041.81 |
| 8 | Jammu & Kashmir | 735.10 | 735.10 | 1716.73 | 1287.54 |
| 9 | Jharkhand | 4615.34 | 4615.34 | 12746.83 | 9560.13 |
| 10 | Karnataka | 5207.76 | 5207.76 | 11238.58 | 8428.94 |
| 11 | Kerala | 2874.17 | 2874.17 | 5040.98 | 3780.74 |
| 12 | Madhya Pradesh | 7649.45 | 7649.45 | 17387.81 | 13040.85 |
| 13 | Maharashtra | 10234.03 | 10234.03 | 22213.90 | 16660.43 |
| 14 | Orissa | 5899.77 | 5899.77 | 17021.70 | 12766.29 |
| 15 | Punjab | 897.89 | 897.89 | 1601.91 | 1201.43 |
| 16 | Rajasthan | 3773.48 | 3754.48 | 8533.25 | 6399.93 |
| 17 | Tamil Nadu | 7043.03 | 7043.03 | 13159.75 | 9869.82 |
| 18 | Uttar Pradesh | 19851.70 | 19851.70 | 50432.59 | 37824.45 |
| 19 | Uttarakhand | 1224.26 | 1224.26 | 3217.40 | 2413.06 |
| 20 | West Bengal | 7993.56 | 7993.56 | 18914.86 | 14186.15 |
| | SUBTOTAL | 106358.00 | 106329.00 | 251785.31 | 188839.05 |
| North Eastern States | | | | | |
| 21 | Arunachal Pradesh | 415.46 | 415.46 | 759.10 | 569.33 |
| 22 | Assam | 8218.02 | 8218.02 | 19717.54 | 14788.16 |
| 23 | Manipur | 628.92 | 628.92 | 1320.90 | 990.69 |
| 24 | Meghalaya | 684.72 | 684.72 | 1479.85 | 1109.88 |
| 25 | Mizoram | 195.85 | 195.85 | 345.30 | 258.99 |
| 26 | Nagaland | 447.02 | 447.02 | 1016.70 | 762.54 |
| 27 | Sikkim | 190.69 | 190.69 | 378.18 | 283.65 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28 | Tripura | 1119.32 | 1119.32 | 2386.93 | 1790.19 |
| | SUB-TOTAL | 11900.00 | 11900.00 | 27404.50 | 20553.43 |
| UTs | | | | | |
| 29 | A&N Islands | 20.00 | 20.00 | 78.42 | 71.89 |
| 30 | Chandigarh | 16.00 | 16.00 | 16.00 | 14.67 |
| 31 | D&N Haveli | 15.00 | 15.00 | 78.42 | 71.89 |
| 32 | Daman &Diu | 4.00 | 4.00 | 4.00 | 3.67 |
| 33 | NCT Delhi | 567.00 | 567.00 | 567.00 | 519.75 |
| 34 | Lakshadweep | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.60 | 5.T3 |
| 35 | Pondicherry | 115.00 | 115,00 | 115.00 | 105.42 |
| | SUB TOTAL | 742.00 | 742.00 | 864.44 | 792.41 |
| | GRAND TOTAL | 119000.00 | 118971.00 | 280054.25 | 210184.89 |

**E-Choupal initiative**

2554. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a private company, with the help of 'e-Choupal initiative' is endeavouring to bring development in the rural areas;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up such measures of public-private partnership, that can transform lives and landscapes in rural India;

(c) if so,-the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps are being taken to enhance IT awareness in rural areas and the allocation made therefor during the last three years, year-wise and the actuals of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) ITC limited, a private sector company, under its 'e-Choupal initiative[1], provides an alternate market to the farmer to take decision to sell his agricultural produce on the basis of the information made available about the rates in different wholesale markets.